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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 0037
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 7644
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY 0036
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY 0322
RUEHNP/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY 0043
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY 0971
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 8523
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4646
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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STATE FOR S/CT, AF AND NEA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [MASS](#) [OTRA](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE APPROVAL FOR REGIONAL SECURITY
INITIATIVE (RSI) CONFERENCE

¶1. Embassy Tunis grants country clearance and warmly welcomes all officials participating in the Trans Sahara RSI Conference in Tunis on April 1, 2008.

¶2. Conference Point of Contacts:

a) Embassy Control Officer is Political Officer Susannah Cooper. Phone 216-71-107-306 or 216-71-107-000; Fax: 216-71-107-090; Post 1: 216-71-107-212; email: CooperSE@state.gov.

b) Administrative Support Coordinator is GSO Bill Crummey. Phone 216-71-107-450 or 216-71-107-000; Fax: 216-71-107-090; Post 1: 216-71-107-212; email: CrummeyWM@state.gov.

¶3. Hotel: Reservations have been made for all participants at the Ramada Plaza Tunis. The room rate is TD 115 (USD 97.50, within per diem) and includes breakfast, taxes and WiFi. Individual hotel reservations will be adjusted as appropriate after participants' travel itineraries are passed to Ms. Cooper. Hotel telephone number: (216) 71-911-100. Fax: (216) 71-910-041. Website: <http://www.ramada.com/hotel/19180>. An Embassy Welcome Desk at the hotel will be staffed from 12:00 - 9:00 p.m. on March 31 and 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on April 1.

¶4. Arrivals: Post will meet and assist arriving participants at the airport with Embassy expediter and vehicle, and will assist with departure.

¶5. Conference Information: The conference will be held at the US Embassy located in the suburb of Berges du Lac. Post will provide transportation from the hotel to the conference site and return. Additional details about the conference and logistics are available on Embassy Tunis' classified website: www.state.gov/p/nea/tunis/index.cfm.

¶6. Currency Exchange: It is recommended that travelers change

money at the airport to cover personal expenses at arrival. Current exchange rate is approximately USD 1 = TND 1.180. Post will provide accommodation exchange and reverse accommodation at the conference on April 1 and at the hotel the morning of April 2.

¶17. Embassy Tunis' normal workweek is Monday through Friday; office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

¶18. Entry requirements: a valid passport is required; no visa is necessary.

¶19. Travelers with private or U.S. Government (USG) owned electronic devices including laptops, peripherals, diskettes, tapes, and other media, must receive RSO/ISSO authorization before these items can be allowed into Embassy facilities. Classified computers must be sent to post via the classified diplomatic pouch, or be hand carried by a non-professional diplomatic courier. All classified equipment must bear external USG bar-coded inventory numbers and classification marking commensurate with the highest level of information processed on the system. Cellular/mobile phones and palm-pilots are prohibited in Controlled Access Areas. Questions concerning other types of electronic devices and magnetic media may be directed to the ISSO or RSO. Electricity in Tunisia is 220 Volts.

¶11. Security/Crime Information: Tunisia is a moderate Arab country that has traditionally enjoyed peace and stability. However, in light of the September 11 attacks in the United States and in view of the ongoing violence in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East region, the American Embassy reminds visitors to maintain a high level of

vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. While the Government of Tunisia has and will continue to make every effort to protect foreigners, visitors should avoid large crowds and crowded public areas and keep in regular contact with the Embassy.

¶12. Tunisian security forces are omnipresent and generally ensure public order. Low level, non-violent property crimes of opportunity are relatively common. Pickpockets and purse-snatchers are common in areas with high volume tourist traffic, such as the Tunis Medina (old city) and central market. It is prudent to exercise normal travel security precautions and maintain a low profile as one would in any major U.S. city. This should help to ensure an incident-free visit.

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